the proposed scheme, for an additional fee, passports will be issued on an out-of-turn basis to eligible applicants who can be issued passports on post police verification basis provided such cases are recommended/certified by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Secretary. The Scheme would come into effect from the date of issue of the Gazette Notification which is in the process of being finalised.

(c) Yes, Sir. As it is proposed to charge an additional fee for the issue of passport under this scheme it would lead to some additional revenue to the Government.

Supply of missile by North Korea to Pak

1587. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that North Korea is providing Pakistan with a long range modern missile to Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether relationship between North Korea and Pakistan is not detrimental to our interest?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) It is widely believed that North Korea has assisted Pakistan with liquid fuel long range missiles, missile technology and components and that the Chauri is a Pakistani version of the North Korean 'Nodong' missile. The government believes that continuing supply of sophisticated missiles and related technology to Pakistan poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

Creation of basic facilities for development and export of software

1588. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are making efforts on creation of basic facilities for development and export of software and contributes towards achieving export targets both for software and hardware; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made under this programme and the achievements made so far?